CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 13, No. 14 TORONTO, APRIL 7, 1948 $2.00 Per Annum

Ontario's Ticket Tax Too High

Province Will Reimpose Levy At Present Federal Rate

The intention of the Ontario government to continue the 20 per cent amusement tax for provincial purposes when dropped by Ottawa brought opposition from the leaders of the other parties and sharp criticism from organized labor. Farquar Oliver, Liberal leader, said a ten per cent impost would be more equitable, A. A. MacLeod, LPP, also suggested a reduction and an amendment offered by the CCF leader, W. J. Grummett, was defeated. Grummett asked that all tickets under 50 cents be exempt and that the tax be increased to 35 per cent on ad-

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Religous Pix To Be Made Here

While attempts to stimulate theatrical film production in Canada is at present seemingly bogged down, there is a lot of activity in another direction. A series of films based on religious themes is to be produced in Canada for Beacon Productions Limited, of

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French First-Run Opened By Odeon

Highlight of Odeon's Easter week-end celebration was the opening of the new Montreal first-run for French-language product, the Champlain, with Hon. J. Earl Lawson, KC, president of Odeon, Hon. Phillipe Brais, KC, president of General

(Continued on Page 3)

Variety Clubs Plan Delinquency Pic

Variety International will produce "Bad Boy," a film about juvenile delinquency as an aid to the campaign of the attorney-general of the United States.

The picture, a factual story about the career of "America's Number One Boy Criminal," will be offered to exhibitors as a means of supporting Variety work.

Texas Variety operates a boys' camp and Los Angeles is planning one. The Texas venture was begun at the attorney-general's suggestion.

Coldwell Defends NFB In Commons

The National Film Board's rural circuits were reduced from 85 to 67 by last year's cut in its estimates, which was approximately $202,000, M. J. Coldwell, leader of the CCF, told the House of Commons recently. Described as "a negligible cut" by Finance

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New Theatre For BC

Vested Estates Ltd. recently filed plans with the Vancouver building department for the erection of a 499-seat theatre.

TEN PER CENT ENOUGH

The Toronto Globe and Mail, supporter of the present administration, described Provincial Treasurer Leslie Frost's 20 per cent amusement tax bill as a "Bold and Commendable Step" to help hospitals. Its editorial, reprinted here in part, recognized the taxpayer's problem and suggested that a reduced tax might have been more acceptable.

Notwithstanding the plight of the hospitals and the limitations on the ability of the municipalities to meet their deficits, there is another side to consider — the impact upon the taxpayer. We believe that most citizens will be more satisfied to see the money taken from them as amusement taxes go directly for the care of less fortunate and suffering neighbors. But there is the very serious question of whether the public is prepared to pay, indeed may reasonably be expected to go on paying, amusement taxes at the wartime rate of 20 per cent, even for this worthy purpose.

A 20 per cent tax on anything is a heavy tax. True, there are heavier ones being imposed. No one argues that these are reasonable and in most cases they are designed to curb public spending. What would be the reaction of business and the public if a 20 per cent tax were imposed

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Newspapers Criticize 'Adult' Regulation

Identification on advertising of films classified by Ontario censors as "Adult Advertising" is not having the effect intended and should be changed or the regulation dropped, it was contended editorially by three important newspapers recently. Established in June, 1946, the requirement has been consistently ignored by a number of exhibitors ever since. Because of this it was added to the Theatres and Cinematograph Act early in 1947 and a $200 penalty provided. This seems to have done little good, for the Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspec-

(Continued on Page 3)

Balance On Theatre Litigation Subject

Isadore Constant has launched action in Supreme Court at Whitby, Ontario, against Alfred P. Calderone for the recovery of the balance of the purchase price of a theatre in Uxbridge, Ontario, a 16 mm. situation. Both the principals involved are from Toronto.

Constant claims Calderone failed to live up to the terms of the purchase agreement, but the defendant claims misrepresentation. The sum of $1,129 is involved.

Gary Cooper's Next

Gary Cooper will portray Orville Wright in Warners' film of the Wright Brothers of aeronautical fame.

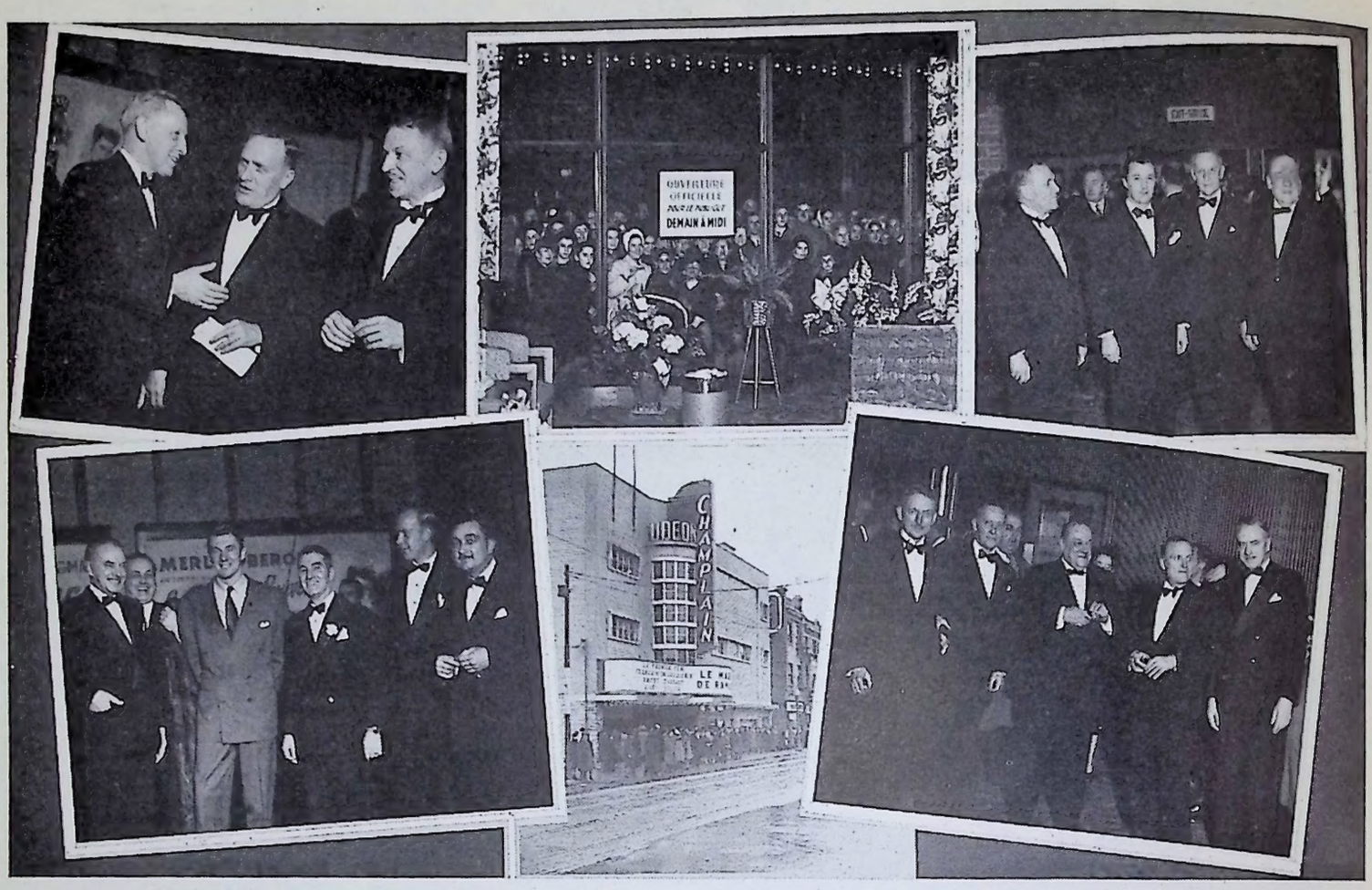
Quebec Ads Used

Use by some Ontario theatres of advertising material censored and okayed in Quebec must stop or theatres using it will be prosecuted, the Ontario Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection branch warns. All material used in Ontario must be passed by the department and material approved in other provinces is not acceptable here.

Calgary Film Board

William Guss was elected the new president of the Calgary Film Board of Trade, replacing Vernon Skorey, at the recent annual meeting in the Pallister Hotel. Reg. Doddridge was named vice-president and W. O. Kelly was appointed secretary and head of the Credit Committee, on which will also serve Robert Radis and Skorey.

Because it's GAY, SPARKLING, FUNNY, NATURAL, WARM, WHOLESOME, APPEALING, CHARMING and GENUINE
QUIET WEEKEND Began 6th WEEK — VANCOUVER — EASTER MONDAY!
A PATHE (British) PICTURE from INTERNATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTORS Limited



J. ARTHUR RANK
Presents

Margaret Lockwood
Dennis Price Ian Hunter
Joan Greenwood
in

THE WHITE UNICORN

A good woman's picture is a spring tonic for the box office.

Also available for April booking
THE ROYAL WEDDING
PRESENTS
as filmed in Technicolor at
St. James Palace, London

An EAGLE-LION *Release*

It's a problem!

"Wire Eagle-Lion now for booking on the next Royal Wedding. I'm the sucker that didn't play the last one."

P.S. He was smart. Eagle-Lion has the Royal Wedding Presents in Technicolor coming immediately.

Scenes at the Opening of the Odeon Champlain

Shown in the above photographs are scenes taken at the opening of the new Champlain Theatre in Montreal, the latest unit in the circuit of Odeon Theatres of Canada, Limited. The Champlain will play French-language pictures and its opening program featured the first such film in color, "Le Mariage de Ramuntchko."

The first photograph in the top row, from the left, shows the Hon. J. Earl Lawson, KC, head of the Odeon interests in Canada; Hon. Philipe Brais, KC, MLC, president of General Theatres (Quebec) Limited; and Hon. Gustaxe Monette, KC, director of General hTeatres. In the second is shown the crowd looking through the picture window into the foyer. The third depicts Brais; Andre Dessary, singing star of "Ramuntchko;" Lawson; and Mayor Camillien Houde, CBE, of Montreal.

In the bottom row the first picture shows, from left to right, Clare Appel, Odeon eastern general manager; Archie Laurie, director of public relations for Odeon; Michael Redgrave, British screen and stage star; Art Bahen, manager of the Champlain; George W. Peters, vice-president of Odeon Theatres; and Gordon Dann, Odeon Quebec district manager. The second photo is a general view of the theatre front on opening day. The last photo shows Monette, Lawson, Houde, Brais and Appel.

French First-Run Opened By Odeon

(Continued from Page 1)

Theatres (Quebec) and a long list of dignitaries in attendance. Among executives from Toronto in Montreal for the event were George W. Peters, vice-president; Clare J. Appel, eastern divisional manager; and Archie Laurie, the circuit's new public relations head.

Opening feature was "Le Marriage de Ramunchko," first Parisian film in complete color. Made by the German Agfa process, it is a Basque musical. Earlier in the week in Montreal, Frank Fisher, general manager of Eagle-Lion, which is distributing "Ramunchko," also announced that the first Eagle-Lion Parisian versions of top London successes had arrived in Canada, namely "Madonna of the Seven Moons," "Seventh Veil" and "Great Expectations."

Newspapers Criticize 'Adult' Regulation

(Continued from Page 1)

tion branch is now implying that it will take more drastic steps if breaches continue.

"Apparently the only solution will be for our Censorship Board to release all 'Adult' pictures under special permit. excluding theatres which have failed to comply with requirements in connection with 'Adult Entertainment', which means that offending exhibitors will be unable to exhibit such films," O. J. Silverthorne, branch chairman, warned exhibitors in a letter to the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario recently.

Calling "Adult Entertainment" a "particularly unfortunate choice of words" and opining that some theatre managers, recognizing that they were a lure for young people rather than a warning, were only too happy to use them, the Ottawa Journal went on to say:

"But if we can't change the movies can't we change the sign? 'No Children' would do admirably. That is to say, it wouldn't hurt the theatre's revenue from the folk who seek out such movies; it wouldn't pretend to be attempting to improve the standard of movies, it would still be a warning to parents and—maybe here's our main interest—it would be less a cause of annoyance to old grouches like ourselves who get wrought up on seeing it every day."

The Brantford Expositor had this to say:

"On more than one occasion this newspaper uttered mild criticism of the use, on the marquees and display boards of moving picture houses, of the label 'Adult Entertainment'. Now and then the remarks have evoked slight protest from the theatre managements, who point to the fact that this sort of tagging is none of their doing.

"The Ontario law provides for the quaint set-up, it seems, the well-meaning idea, of course, being to provide adequate warning to parents that the pictures so designated are not suitable for young eyes and ears.

"This newspaper has always regarded this device, admirably intentioned though it doubtless is, as likely to defeat its own purpose by simply adding a perverse attraction to pictures which may or may not be 'improper'."

Chief objection of the three papers to "Adult" identification in advertising was well expressed in the heading of the Kingston Whig Standard's editorial. "A Hint of Impropriety Sells Things." That newspaper reprinted the Ottawa Journal editorial on the same page with an 11-inch editorial commenting on it.

Noting the Ottawa Journal's objections to the words "Adult Entertainment," the Kingston paper said that they "were mildly misleading but perhaps excusable" because of the good intention behind the Ontario law. The Whig Standard concluded its editorial with:

"If anyone is sufficiently concerned — and we include the Ottawa Journal—there's an easy way out of this 'Adult Entertainment' matter. Just drop the entire idea of labelling films as "unsuitable" for anyone. If it isn't for children, say nothing. If it is for children, as well as adults, just tag it 'Suitable for Children and Adults'. That should settle the question, truthfully and soothingly."

Atkinson, Brazer To Cardinal Sales Staff

Teddy Atkinson, well-known in the distribution section of the industry, will represent Cardinal Films in Quebec, while Dave Brazer, formerly of B & L Theatres, will sell for that company in the Maritimes. Atkinson's offices are in Montreal and Brazer's in Saint John, NB.

The appointments were announced by Harry A. Kaufman, now general sales manager of the company, who just returned from the east and has left for the west to appoint managers for branches in Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver.

Operator Wanted

First-class license, state marital status and salary expected for 40-hour week.

Apply BOX 16
CANADIAN FILM WEEKLY
25 Dundas Sq., Toronto

Canadian Film Weekly

Vol. 13, No. 14 April 7, 1948

HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

Address all communications—The Managing Editor, Canadian Film Weekly, 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Canada.

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Coldwell Defends NFB In Commons

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Minister Abbott in an interruption, Coldwell said that because of higher costs "even a negligible cut in the estimates means more than a negligible cut in the work."

Those who came from rural communities knew how valuable the work of the NFB was, the CCF leader said. "The curtailment of the National Film Board's activities at home and abroad is, I believe, a penny-wise pound-foolish policy," he told the House. He did not think the government intended to cripple the NFB but if it was seeking to cut down or eliminate its activities it should tell frankly exactly what its attitude is.

Contrary to some opinion, the National Film Board was not a wartime creation. It had grown naturally and its growth had not been allowed for. The conditions under which its employees worked were "unbelievable" and a private employer, if they existed in his factory, would be forced to correct them by the law. Apart from the "utterly appalling conditions" of work the NFB is something in which all Canadians can take pride, he said.

National Film Board films about Canada were being seen by 70,000,000 persons annually and were an effective means of increasing the free flow of information at a time when it was needed most. Coldwell suggested that the cut in estimates be reconsidered and that a committee should be set up, before which NFB officials could appear. This would provide an opportunity of enquiring into all phases of the work of the organization.

Brought into the matter by Coldwell's reference to his recent criticism of the NFB, G. K. Fraser, member from Peterborough, stated that "I have not at any time said that the Film Board was not worthwhile." It was his opinion that its films ought to be distributed abroad by branches of the trade and commerce department, making unnecessary NFB offices.

Fraser repeated his criticism of the photography of NFB subjects and his charges that it was competing unfairly with commercial photographers. The sooner that the National Film Board was cleaned up in the proper direction, the better for Canada and its trade relations with other countries, he claimed.

Joins International

Mike Mandell, formerly with Columbia in Winnipeg and Calgary, has joined the sales staff of International Film Distributors in Winnipeg.

Mason's Beef

Odds and Ends

Mason Heaves More Bricks

James Mason, a man most conscious of his own modesty, just heaved another load of bricks at Hollywood, this time from Canada. The British star, who has never made a picture in Hollywood, is the most consistent critic of its methods and manners.

Some of the sub-headings of an article about Hollywood in the March issue of The Canadian Author and Bookman, called "Hollywood Headaches," will give you an idea of his approach. They are: "Writer's Gripes," "Executive Arrogance," "Director's Beefs," "The Methods of Intimidation" and "Everyone is Afraid."

He got his information from Hollywoodians in the Stork Club, he writes, and he would like to see American movies, which had "delighted us for a generation," regain their "audacity and sparkle."

In his observation about writers he writes:

"This is a composite writer's gripe. In the first place he has been hired by the studio because he has written a hit novel or a hit play, or has proved by his work for the radio or the press that he is master of his craft. He achieved this success by dint of swotting away in his own apartment with no respect for office hours and without intervention. At the studio he finds that he is expected to work in an office not far from that of his immediate boss, a low grade executive or story editor who is responsible for the conversion of certain story material into script form. The writer resents this individual's unflagging interest in his output. I heard of a case where there was a communicating door between executive and writer. The executive slept peacefully while the typewriter was tap-tapping and woke up whenever the typewriter was momentarily silenced. He then yawned, stretched and walked through to the other office and breathed down the writer's neck until the latter in self-defence started pounding the keys again."

Mason lays it on all of them — but good. Few will deny that Hollywood films have little individuality and the British star thinks he knows why.

* * *

A Look at the Old Home Town

Sam Russ, the Collingwood exhibitor, has warned the fish in the creek that he will be away until May and to keep their eyes open and their mouths shut. His finny friends won't be the only ones to miss Sam, for he's popular around there. He and son Joe run the Gayety.

Right now Sam is in Palermo, Italy, which he left in 1899 for his second trip to Canada, that time to stay. He left first in 1890 and went back after some years here.

His main reason for going back again is to induce his 85-year-old widowed sister to spend the rest of her life in this more favored land. He isn't sure she will. Although she has some mournful memories of her native land, the love for it is still strong. But Sam's heart is in his adopted country.

"How long since your dad went home?" I asked Joe when I heard that Sam left for Italy.

"He didn't go home," corrected Joe. "He left home."

Well, hurry back, Sam. The boys in the business miss you too.

* * *

'Garlic and Limburger'

That's the heading over a letter to the editor of the Waterloo Record, Kitchener, signed "Unconcerned." The letter:

"Why do the Oswegos and the Theatre Patrons worry about something as trivial as a little cigarette and cigar smoke? If your neighbor enjoys smoking in the theatre, why don't you bring along your garlic sandwiches. Or how about some delicious limburger cheese topped with hot onions. Why worry if the next person doesn't like your odor. You paid for your seat.

"If we want to adopt the European custom of smoking in theatres, why not go all out? Bring your lunch and your hootch, too. You like smoking; I like eating, my neighbor likes drinking and the women like their perfume. Why not be one big happy stinky family and enjoy the picture."

About This and That

Lloyd Mills, ex-Toronto manager now in charge of the Midtown, Buffalo, is doing good work in that city. His Saturday morning safety shows got a two-page layout in the Courier-Express pictorial section. Lloyd's Belsize teen-age club is still remembered here . . . **Those items** in the newspapers about Monogram, Empire-U and Odeon suing Regal arose out of the film exchange fire. It was explained to me that an insurance company, when it pays off, retains the right to take legal action in the name of the beneficiary to recover its money . . . **UA** will have the five Marx Bros. in a film with Henry Morgan and is running a company contest to get a name ending in "o" for the fifth one. Doug Rosen suggested "Schmo." Looks like Morgan is the sixth Marx brother.

A fire which started in a schoolroom 100 feet away from the one in which a 16 mm. exhibition was taking place was described as a film fire in a Montreal paper. This extremely harmful misreporting was corrected at the request of film people . . . **One of the** dopiest things the government did was to sell some 35 mm. portable projectors as surplus war material without checking on their future use. Although exchanges can't rent 35 mm. films to those who do not hold provincial licenses, old film seems to find its way into such machines, creating a fire hazard when exhibited in homes without authorized screening rooms.

Someone is always getting mad at Hollywood. Columbia's "The Swordsman" got whacked in the British parliament by a Scottish member Col. Gomme-Duncan, who stated that "The hero is called Larry. I understand that hitherto he has taken no part in Scottish life and affairs in the film industry and has been concerned more with thuggery and the Wild West, which happy things he is now going to bring into the peaceful atmosphere of Scotland" . . . **An eight-page** souvenir edition of the Odeon News, tab newspaper size, was issued for the "grand reopening" of the Capitol, Brampton, as the Odeon on the theatre's 25th anniversary. Keith Wilson is manager . . . **NFB** is making a subject about hockey, script by Henry Roxborough and narration by Foster Hewitt.

Tele Debut Set For Montreal In August

Walter Downs, radio manufacturers' representative, producer and sports announcer, stated that television will make its debut in Canada in Montreal in late August, subject to formal approval of the Quebec Government. His statement indicated that verbal sanction had already been obtained.

According to Downs $104,000 worth of video equipment, not subject to import ban, has been ordered and a site on Sherbrooke Street has been selected for the studio. He has been assured of the co-operation of local sports officials, he said.

Gale Storm Added

Gale Storm has been added to the cast in the lead role opposite Rory Calhoun and Guy Madison in Windsor Pictures' "When a Man's a Man," which will be released by Allied Artists.

Que. Municipalities Control Show Sites

Quebec municipalities will have the right to decide in the construction of theatres or other amusement places, except on the site chosen by the council.

The power will be granted through a clause of the Dussault bill amending the Cities and Towns Act, which was passed in spite of objections from leaders of other parties.

M. Godbout pointed out that the regulations governing the construction and operation of such amusement places were under the authority of the attorney-general and that there was no necessity for the clause. Premier Duplessis said that there were cases where exceptions would have to be made.

Leading Roles Set

Cameron Mitchell, Jane Nigh and Virginia Grey will have the lead roles in Columbia's "Winner Take Nothing."

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 13, No. 14 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

Where There's Life

with Bob Hope, Signe Hasso, William Bendix

Paramount 75 Mins.

ANOTHER HOPE BOXOFFICE SCORER: GENERALLY IN THE FAMILIAR GROOVE.

Like "My Favorite Brunette" and a couple before that, this latest opus of Bob Hope's falls into the familiar humor pattern of the harried individual who is chased hither and yon into a few dozen situations from which he milks the comedy content quite dry.

When Hope plays at it, attempted assassination can be funny, very funny, and it is here.

The motivation for this Hopeful hops off when a king of a fictional empire in Central Europe is the victim of an attempted assassination. His only heir is a character in New York by name of "Michael Valentine," which is also Hope, a disc jockey.

Immediately a squad of loyal retainers is despatched to LaGuardia Field and from there they seek to locate Hope who is quite unaware of what is in store for him. This means he is thwarted from his marital plans with Vera Marshe who has the backing of her brothers—all cops—to see that Hope marries her, but properly.

Signe Hasso is the King's General. She immediately intrudes her military personality on Hope and from just about that point on the chase begins with the underground movement, seeking Hope's demise, very much in evidence via cloak, gun and dagger.

About this time the well known chase works are thrown into the boiling pot that makes up the story and after many a hairbreadth escape Hope manages to convince his captors, in the latter case Miss Hasso and her cohorts, that he is not their king. A last minute airborne wireless message reports that the king will survive and there is no need for Hope. Hope, it is also revealed is not the man who will inherit the throne in any case, and he and Miss Hasso dissolve into a romantic, concluding satisfactory clinch.

CAST: Bob Hope, Signe Hasso, William Bendix, George Coulouris, Vera Marshe, George Zucco, Dennis Hoey, John Alexander.

CREDITS: Producer, Paul Jones; Director, Sidney Lanfield; Screenplay by Allen Boretz, Melvin Shavelson; Based on on a story by Melvin Shavelson; Photography, Charles B. Lang.

DIRECTION, Good.

PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Sitting Pretty

with Robert Young, Maureen O'Hara Clifton Webb

20th-Fox 84 Mins.

THIS ONE ENDS CURRENT COMEDY STARVATION AND SHOULD HAVE THEM COMING FOR LAUGH NOURISHMENT IN DROVES; EVERY BIT A NO. 1 COMEDY.

In case it is not general knowledge the audience has been suffering from a malady called comedy starvation. Lack of laughter is a symptom. But, along comes "Sitting Pretty." Normalcy is restored. The enjoyment of laughter prevails once again. And how it was needed!

It's a merry business. It'll do a merry business. That's for sure.

Suburbia is on the receiving end of this session of fun poking. Suburbia is the place, gossipers and tale carriers the targets.

Advertising for a babysitter in the Saturday Review of Literature, Miss O'Hara, wife to Robert Young and mother of three youngsters, engages Webb. She thinks him to be a woman since his name is "Lynn Belvedere." He comes, makes her live up to her end of the deal and inserts himself in their household on Hummingbird Hill.

Richard Haydn, whose forte is crosspollinating iris and main interest snooping and carrying tales, gathers pollen and arrives at conclusions which his small mind leaps at.

Webb succeeds. The boys love him. He is a genius. He says so himself. He soon dominates the household mouthing epigrammatic advice and generally poking the local citizenry with verbal rights to their mental level which he thinks quite low. And on top of all this he says he hates children.

Silently Webb, with a quill pen, has been writing a satire on suburbia and it is published, creates no mild sensation. About to be sued for libel, he reveals Haydn's unknowing participation.

When the hue and cry diminishes it is expected that Webb will depart. Not likely. It will be a trilogy. Besides, Miss O'Hara is expecting. He'll be around.

CAST: Robert Young, Maureen O'Hara, Clifton Webb, Richard Haydn, Louise Albritton, Randy Stuart, Ed Begley, Larry Olsen.

CREDITS: Producer, Samuel G. Engel; Director, Walter Lang; Screenplay, F. Hugh Herbert; Based on a novel by Gwen Davenport; Photography, Norbet Brodine.

DIRECTION, Fine.

PHOTOGRAPHY, Very Good.

That Hagen Girl

with Shirley Temple, Ronald Reagan

Warners 83 Mins.

CLASS "A" FARE FOR FEMININE TRADE: MISS TEMPLE EMERGES A DRAMATIC ACTRESS OF STATURE.

In this film Shirley Temple emerges from recent trials to give a telling dramatic performance. Hers is a serious role. She handles herself very capably. Playing straight this time with little or no time for comedy she can easily take her place alongside anything offered in the same genre of recent date.

The legitimacy or illegitimacy of "Mary Hagen" is the issue. The title role is played by Miss Temple. The issue is one created by small town gossips who take it on their own to make a case out of a few coincidences.

The hyper-critical audience will ask why the basic truths upon which the misunderstanding is erected were not divulged in the beginning. If they were there would be no story. The simplest explanation would have cleared up the affair. Instead, Ronald Reagan, rather than hang around the small town, runs off for years and returns when Miss Temple is grown. The accepted story, indelibly engraved in small town minds, is that Miss Temple is his child, the fruit of an illicit romance with the daughter of a local big shot.

On Reagan's return—it is the post-war world—he is soon made aware of Miss Temple's problem and the onus of illegitimacy which hangs over her. Actually, it is brought out, Miss Temple was legally adopted by Dorothy Peterson and Charles Kemper. The coincidence of arriving on the same train as the problem girl, set tongues a-wagging. In solid dramatic sections the tale builds to near tragedy. Miss Peterson dies without telling Miss Temple the truth. The ensuing strain on Miss Temple leads her to the river where she attempts suicide. Reagan saves her. Then it turns out he is in love with her and they leave the locality to take up married life.

CAST: Shirley Temple, Ronald Reagan, Dorothy Peterson, Charles Kemper, Rory Calhoun, Jean Porter, Nella Walker, Winifred Harris, Ruth Robinson, Lois Maxwell.

CREDITS: Producer, Alex Gottlieb; Director, Peter Godfrey; Screenplay, Charles Hoffman; Based on a novel by Edith Roberts; Photography, Karl Freund.

DIRECTION, Good.

PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Night Song

with Dana Andrews, Merle Oberon, Ethel Barrymore

RKO 101 Mins.

SENTIMENTAL ROMANCE WELL PRODUCED, DIRECTED AND PLAYED HAS SPECIAL APPEAL TO THE FEMMES.

"Night Song" is highlighted by the splendid acting of its stars, Dana Andrews, Merle Oberon and Ethel Barrymore and Hoagy Carmichael, one of the featured players. Another important factor is John Cromwell's knowing direction. Good production credits go to Executive Producer Jack J. Gross and Producer Harriet Parsons.

Miss Barrymore has a field day as an aunt of Miss Oberon, while Carmichael portrays the leader of a honky-tonk band and companion of Andrews.

Merle Oberon goes slumming and meets Andrews, who is a blind pianist in a honky-tonk. He had weathered the war without injury, but was blinded in an accident in San Francisco. He is embittered and is losing faith in a concerto he is composing.

To give Dana confidence, Merle poses as a blind girl, and Miss Barrymore and Carmichael aid her in her campaign. She arranges a musical competition with $5,000 as the leading prize.

Andrews wins the contest and goes to New York to have a specialist operate on his eyes. The operation is a success, but Dana delays his return to San Francisco and the "blind" girl.

Impatient to see him, Merle goes to New York and is introduced to Dana under a different name. On the night Artur Rubenstein plays Dana's concerto at Carnegie Hall, Dana decides to return to the girl in San Francisco. Merle goes by plane and is there waiting for him when he returns to the Bay City.

CAST: Dana Andrews, Merle Oberon, Ethel Barrymore, Hoagy Carmichael, Jacqueline White.

CREDITS: Executive producer, Jack J. Gross; Producer, Harriet Parsons; Director, John Cromwell; Author, Dick Irving Hyland; Screenplay, Frank Fenton and Dick Irving Hyland; Adaption, De Witt Bodeen; Cameraman, Lucien Balard.

DIRECTION, Splendid.

PHOTOGRAPHY, Praiseworthy.

Projectionist Wanted

For small town theatre.

Apply BOX 17
CANADIAN FILM WEEKLY
25 Dundas Sq., Toronto

CAN YOU THINK BETTER RIGHT THAN A POWER WOMAN'S PICT

OF ANYTHING

NOW

FUL

URE?

COLUMBIA PICTURES
presents

SUSAN
PETERS
in

The Sign Of The Ram

co-starring

ALEXANDER KNOX · PHYLLIS THAXTER · PEGGY ANN GARNER

RON RANDELL · DAME MAY WHITTY · ALLENE ROBERTS

watch it GROW!

Screenplay by Charles Bennett • Based upon the novel by Margaret Ferguson

Directed by JOHN STURGES • Produced by IRVING CUMMINGS, JR. • AN IRVING CUMMINGS PRODUCTION

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Dom'n Friendship Praised By Star

Speaking on the Special United States Program series of Columbia Broadcasting's International Service recently, Irene Dunne, long one of Hollywood's leading stars, voiced warm sentiment for Canada. Said Miss Dunne:

"I consider it not only a pleasure but also an opportunity for service to participate in a program that aims at closer relationship of the peoples of Canada and the United States.

"At a time when so many nations are tragically at variance with one another, it is ground for comfort and for hope to realize that our two countries are so closely welded by similarity of speech, of customs, of standards and of world outlook.

"I believe that this close relationship may be rendered even more enduring by personal contact of the citizens of Canada and the United States. I have been in Canada on several vacation trips, and during the war I was one of more than one hundred representatives of Hollywood who toured that country in behalf of our common war effort.

"Those visits served further to increase the admiration and affection I have always had for Canada. It would be tedious to enumerate the reasons, ranging from the majestic beauty of her territory to the energy and integrity of her people.

"I remember the warm welcome and the generous hospitality that were accorded me. I should like as many Americans as possible to experience them also.

"As nations, Canada and the United States are united as allies. I should like to see as many as possible of their people united by the bonds of personal friendship.

"After all, we are friendly neighbors and free peoples. There are not so many such left in the world today that we can afford not to know each other even better."

24 Patrons Injured As Ceiling Falls

Twenty-four persons were injured, none seriously, when a section of the ceiling of the Armourdale District Theatre, Kansas City, Missouri, collapsed recently.

There was no panic among the 200-odd patrons attending. Four ambulances were required to take the injured to hospital for treatment, where most persons were treated for head and face lacerations.

Picture being shown at the time of the accident was "Out of the Blue."

At the Nortown Opening

Famous Players recently opened its first post-war theatre, the Nortown, Eglinton Avenue, Toronto. The outstanding beauty of the building and its many innovations have won much praise. The first picture shows the auditorium as seen from the stage. The second picture shows the theatre being officially opened by (left to right) Morris Stein, eastern division manager for Famous Players; C. J. McMaster, reeve of York Township; and Charles Cashman, councillor, who is well known to the theatre industry.

'Inside The Atom' NFB Documentary

First motion pictures ever taken inside Canada's Chalk River atomic energy plant is being released by the National Film Board. The documentary, titled "Inside the Atom," will receive distribution abroad as well as on this continent and is the April issue of the Canada Carries On series being distributed by Columbia Pictures.

Showing for the first time the details of the research on isotopes, the short was kept secret until passed recently by General A. G. McNaughton, Canadian delegate to the United Nations Atomic Commission.

Lift Hydro Dimout

Hydro restrictions on power and lighting in Ontario were lifted last week and marquees are ablaze again. Interruption of performances through power stoppage ended recently.

Saskatoon Manager's Big 'Frieda' Buildup

The heavy snow which blanketed Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, was used to good advantage in a big buildup of Eagle-Lion's "Frieda" by W. A. Popham, manager of the Tivoli and Broadway Theatres.

Ten-foot-high letters of soot spelled the name of the film on the river bank and 50 large-size showcards were set up in snowbanks around town. Advance three-sheets of Time Magazine's "Chosen as the picture of the week" initiated a teaser campaign that was followed up in newspapers and on the radio.

Pioneer Boxing

Part of the entertainment at the smoker of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, to be held at the King Edward Hotel on April 7th, will be five boxing bouts by youngsters from the Police Kiwanis Club.

Scenes at the Reception for Anita Colby

Press and trade welcomed Miss Anita Colby, assistant to Henry Ginsberg, chief of production for Paramount Pictures, at a series of gatherings in Toronto recently.

In the first picture, top row, Miss Colby is shown with Paramount Toronto branch and head office staffers and in the second broadcasting from CBC. In the first picture of the second row she is being interviewed and in the other she is talking to Larry Bearg, Famous Players; Martin Bloom, Premier Operating and Raoul Auerbach, 20th Century Theatres.

The third row, first photo, shows the press at breakfast with Miss Colby, while the last photo shows some Famous Players lads crowding her.

At the trade reception in Vanity Fair Miss Colby told about such outstanding Paramount films as DeMille's magnificent Technicolor spectacle, "Unconquered," now at Shea's, Toronto, and Bob Hope's next and best comedy, "Where There's Life," as well as the Technicolor spectacle starring Bing Crosby and Joan Fontaine, "The Emperor Waltz," much of which was shot at Banff. Other productions now in the shooting stage were described and the listeners were told about Paramount's plans for bringing them to the special attention of the public ahead of release as a means of stimulating the box-office.

Warner Honored For Food Train Work

Harry M. Warner, president of Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc., was recently honored with awards from the French and Italian Governments at special events, ceremonies and receptions in his honor at the French and Italian embassies in Washington. Decorations were bestowed upon Warner for his work as chairman of the Friendship Food Train committee and to show both European governments' appreciation of the spontaneous contribution made by the people of the USA to their peoples.

The Friendship Food Train in less than a month collected 500 boxcars full of contributed food, 340 more than had been hoped for. Total collected weighed over 45,000,000 pounds and was transported by the Association of American Railroads and leading American steamship lines free of charge. Drew Pearson, newspaper and radio commentator, suggested the idea.

Ontario's Ticket Tax Too High

missions of $2 or more.

Provincial Treasurer Leslie M. Frost, who introduced the bill, said that he expected Ottawa to vacate the amusement tax field at the end of its fiscal year, which is March 31st, although the federal minister of finance, the Hon. Douglas C. Abbott, stated that his government's policy would not be known until the budget comes down in May.

The bill is "An Act to impose a Tax on Amusements to Provide for Greater Aid to Public Hospitals" and the money collected under its authority will be placed in a special fund. The national total of the amusement tax is between $14 and $15 millions, of which Ontario provides about half.

MacLeod recalled to the Ontario legislature that relations between the provincial and federal governments were strained and asked: "If it doesn't withdraw by 1951, how are you going to cope with the hospital problem?" To which Frost replied: "I can't think any government inhuman enough to take out its spite on the Ontario government at the expense of sick people."

Cleve Kidd, secretary of the Ontario Federation of Labor, affiliated with the Canadian Congress of Labor, told the press that his organization's request that no amusement tax be levied had been ignored. "If the tax were to be used to furnish social services we would take a different attitude. The hospitals are in a difficult financial position because of increased costs, but I don't think the workers should be asked to foot the bill in making up the deficit." Elimination of the amusement might provide some additional recreation for the workers, who could afford very little now.

The tax was described as a discriminatory measure against the working people by A. MacArthur of the Ontario Provincial Federation of the Trades and Labor Congress. The workers made up the great majority of movie patrons and the tax was not the proper approach to the hospital problem.

The Toronto District Labor

(Continued from Page 1)

Council had protested all along, said its president, William Jenoves, "because movies and ball games are about all the entertainment the average worker can afford out of his earnings."

Ontario theatre men have been asking for several years that the amusement tax, a wartime measure, be dropped on the grounds that it is discriminatory and hardest on the people who earned the least. Because of this and the rise in the high cost of living patronage had decreased generally. They had agreed to pass the entire savings on to the public if Ottawa dropped the tax and provincial governments did not re-impose it.

Ontario last had an amusement tax in 1937, which had lasted until then from the time of its imposition during the first world war. The Liberal government of Mitchell Hepburn ended it. Provincial Treasurer Leslie Frost of the present Conservative government is also the senior officer of the Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection branch.

The theatre industry would be willing to bear a fair share of any social service, stated Clare Appel of Odeon Theatres, who is president of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario, but he didn't believe that a single industry should be asked to carry it. Theatre business had been affected between 15 and 25 per cent since the end of the war, he said, because 80 per cent of the people who attend the movies are in the average and lower income tax groups and there were affected most by rising costs.

"My own opinion is that they'll have a little more trouble with this one than they had with the gasoline tax, for this is simply a case of relieving the rich man of an obligation and passing it on to the poor man," said J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Canadian Corporation. "It is now up to the people of Ontario to decide about the tax. We, as a company, won't do anything about it. We can't do anything about it. The good old public will just have to pay the shot," he said.

The Act, short title of which is "The Hospitals Tax Act, 1948," will become effective by proclamation as soon as the Dominion vacates the tax field.

Several of its clauses go beyond those in the federal regulations dealing with the same subjects.

For instance, it seems that refreshments sold in theatres will be taxable, since Clause E of Section 1 reads: "'price of admission' includes any charge made or fee collected after admission to a place of amusement, and any charge made in a place of amusement for meals or refreshments that are served in conjunction with any dance, performance or entertainment."

Clause D of Section 1 defines a "place of amusement" as "any theatre, moving-picture hall, dance hall, concert hall, music hall, circus, side-show, carnival, amusement park, race-course, baseball park, athletic park, skating rink, or place at or in which an exhibition or entertainment is given or amusement is provided or facilities are provided therefor or game is played, where an entrance fee is charged or fee collected through the sale of tickets or otherwise, or where after admission a charge is made or fee collected, and includes any place where dances are held or facilities for dancing provided or a performance or entertainment is given before, during or after the service of meals or refreshments."

All such places must be licensed and penalties are provided for those who do not meet the requirements of the Act. The license will cost $1 and must be displayed.

Absorption of the tax is prohibited and entertainment to raise funds for charitable, religious or educational purposes may be exempted.

TEN PER CENT ENOUGH

(Continued from Page 1)

on almost any other product or service? While it may be argued that it is better to tax "pleasures" than essentials, there is still a limit on how far any tax should go.

It has been pointed out that other Provinces maintained their individual amusement taxes even after Ottawa invaded the field. That is true. In Quebec the double levy has meant an impost in excess of 40 per cent on cinema and other forms of entertainment. But this does not make a high tax acceptable. Moreover, it is surely to be assumed that once Ottawa vacates the field, such taxation in the other sections will maintain a reasonable level.

Justification of the 20 per cent Federal tax was never sought on the grounds that it was fair or reasonable. It was a wartime levy, imposed at a period of peak employment, when wages were relatively high and the Government was determined to drain off as much of the purchasing power so distributed as it could. This being the prime consideration, equity could have had little influence on the fixing of the rate.

Wartime is not peacetime, and there is to be considered the possibility of diminishing returns. Taxation can produce that result. At present there is no doubt about the "recession" which movie houses and other amusements are experiencing. A tax which contributes to the decline in their attendance must defeat its purpose. All these factors undoubtedly are known to, and probably have been considered by the Provincial Treasurer. Most assuredly they will be considered by the public.

There is no contradiction in questioning the amount of the tax while holding reservations as to the adequacy of the aid to be provided. There are other revenues, which, with more equity, might be employed. For example, it might have been possible to levy a 10 per cent amusement tax and divert supplementary sums to the Hospital Aid Fund from the liquor profits. However, this is a matter which can best be judged when the amusement tax is examined in the broad frame of the new Budget.

Warren Hymer Dies

Warren Hymer, film actor who specialized in soft-hearted tough guy roles, passed away recently in Hollywood of a stomach ailment. He appeared in such films as "Little Miss Marker," "Born Reckless," "Goldie" and "Meet John Doe."

U-I's 'Snow Capers'

Empire-Universal has released Universal-International's two-reel featurette of skiing and winter sports in and around Banff, Alberta, titled "Snow Capers." It is one of a series of three, the others to be filmed in Ontario and Quebec.

Australians Miss NFB Service

Recent closing of National Film Board offices in Sydney and Melbourne is regarded as a serious setback to Australian cultural development by film societies throughout that country, according to newspaper despatches. Ross McLean, head of the Board, stated in Ottawa that these branch offices were closed "on the grounds of economy," but added that "other ways are being studied to make Canadian films available in Australia."

Almost daily, educational authorities are writing letters to leading newspapers expressing appreciation of the work done by the Board since the offices were opened and deploring the severance of a valuable link between Canada and Australia.

Typical of the letters is one from C. N. M. Richmond, president of the Canberra Film Centre, in a recent issue of the Sydney Morning Herald. Richmond stressed his disappointment that the Board was closing its offices and continued: "In the past two years nearly one-third of all films on the programs of the Canberra Film Centre have been Canadian Film Board productions and this high proportion is no accident, for the admirable quality of most films from this source now is generally acknowledged.

"But there is the further point that the Canadian Film Board has developed a tradition which has already helped our own National Film Board—through the work of men like Ralph Foster and Stanley Hawes — so that apart from the film supply we can ill afford to lose Miss Helen Watson and her office as a direct link with the outstanding film work of our sister Dominion."

Richmond concludes with the query: "Is it too late for the Canadian Film Board to think again and leave at least its Sydney office intact?"

Miss Watson closes the Australian offices March 31.

It is estimated that almost 1,500,000 Australians saw Canadian documentary and non-theatrical films last year. The Board's library of more than 300 film subjects was screened 16,400 times in Australia during the year.

Jane Wyman Cast

Jane Wyman will star opposite David Niven in Warners' "Kiss in the Dark," instead of Joan Crawford as previously announced by the studio. Switch was caused by a second Crawford vehicle being ready earlier than anticipated.

Religious Films To Be Made At Queensway

(Continued from Page 1)

which the Reverend Walter McCleary, BA, is president.

The decision to have these films made in Canada follows a year's study of Hollywood and London methods and costs, states Reverend McCleary, who will write the original stories.

"Investigation into all sides of film production and taking into account the wide market for this type of production has convinced us of the soundness of this project," said Reverend McCleary. "The facilities needed for production in Canada are here, and are good," he added.

Beacon Productions, which consolidates various religious groups for purpose of films, is represented on its board of directors by Sir Ellsworth Flavelle, vice-president; Gordon Plackett, secretary-treasurer; Douglas A. Perigee and S. E. Anglin, directors.

The contract for the production of these films has been signed by Cinema (Canada) Pictures Limited. It covers a period of five years during which some thirty shorts, mostly in color, will be produced for world distribution at an estimated expenditure of half a million dollars. The first of these will go into production in April at Queensway Studios in Toronto.

Feature production on religious subjects is also intended with present plans calling for the first one, "A Certain Man Had Two Sons," written by Reverend McCleary, to be produced by Cinema (Canada) this summer. It will be given world release through the J. Arthur Rank Organization. This program of features which will form part of the five-year period, will bring the production outlay to the million dollar mark.

Plans for distribution cover the United States, England, the Middle East, South Africa, South and Central America, Australia and New Zealand.

Reverend McCleary stressed the assistance and encouragement he had received in formulating the production plan for Beacon Productions. He mentioned specifically Cathedral Films and United World Films in the United States and the J. Arthur Rank Organization in England.

"The demand for religious films is urgent and great," said Reverend McCleary. "The existing films cannot possibly cover the market. In the United States alone there are between fifteen to nineteen thousand churches who are users of this type film."

The stories will not be Biblical in theme but rather based upon the impact of religion in everyday life. Production will be under the supervision of Sydney Banks, who inked the contract for Cinema (Canada) Pictures.

Oshawa Grants New Theatre Application

Oshawa, Ontario, city council recently granted David Kalnitsky's application for a license to build a new theatre. Several amendments and objections were defeated previous to passing the permit but a provision was made that the theatre had to be set back the proper distance from the street line.

Council had already granted two applications for theatres but believed they would not be used.

Advance $1,500,000 On USA Earnings

The largest single payment ever received by a British film company was recently paid into the British treasury. Totalling $1,500,000, it is an advance payment on the earnings of three London Films' productions in the USA.

The trio of pictures produced by Sir Alexander Korda are "An Ideal Husband," starring Paulette Goddard; "Anna Karenina," from the famous Tolstoy novel, starring Vivien Leigh; and "Mine Own Executioner," starring Burgess Meredith and Kieron Moore. Last named has been on every "Ten Bests" list of the British film critics. All three will be released in the USA and Canada by 20th Century-Fox.

France Awards Cross To Irving Berlin

Irving Berlin, world-famous song writer, was recently decorated with the Cross of the Knighthood of the French Legion of Honour. The cross was presented to him at a ceremony in the office of Louis B. Mayer, head of production of MGM studio, by Alexandre de Manziarly, French consul at Los Angeles.

The French consul stated that the French people were indebted to Berlin for many fine songs which had been translated into their language and said that his people had a warm affection for Berlin.

Berlin, who is at present working on MGM's production based on his hit song "Easter Parade," is celebrating his 40th anniversary as a song writer. He has written over 800 tunes during his long career as lyricist, composer, publisher and screen and stage producer.

Miami Has Plenty Of Hotel Rooms

A new high total of 675 hotel rooms available in Miami Beach for the April 12 to 17 convention of Variety Clubs International was announced recently by Doug Raff, hotel committee chairman.

Hotels just added to the list and the number of rooms they will make available are Atlantis, 25; Grossinger-Pancoast, 70 rooms, 5 suites; Shelborne, 30; Lord Tarleton, 50; Wofford, 70.

Hotels announced earlier include the Albion, Belmar, Cromwell, Martinique, National, Ritz Plaza, Robert Richter, Sunset, Surfside, Town House, Traymore, Triton and Vanderbilt.

"Rates in most of these hotels," Raff said, "range from $6 up single and from $8 up double, with most double rooms priced at $10."

Raff reiterated that the rooms offered are of the same high calibre as those at the Roney Plaza, which is the headquarters hotel. He also pointed out that all of them are within walking distance of the Roney Plaza. Roney rooms, he said, would be occupied mostly by national canvasmen and chief barkers. Raff asked that requests for reservations be sent to him at the host tent, The Variety Club of Greater Miami, Tent No. 33, Alcazar Hotel, Miami, Florida.

'The Gallant Blade'

Edith King, noted Broadway actress and associate of Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontaine, has been signed by Columbia for one of the top roles in "The Gallant Blade," Cinecolor version of the Alexander Dumas classic.

Allied Artists Productions, Inc.
presents

Song of My Heart

A SYMPHONY FILMS PRODUCTION with

FRANK SUNDSTROM · AUDREY LONG
SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE · MIKHAIL RASUMNY
GALE SHERWOOD

with an Entire Score of **TCHAIKOVSKY** Melodies

Produced by NATHANIEL FINSTON and J. THEODORE REED • Written and Directed by BENJAMIN GLAZER

RAMBLING WITH Roly Young

★★★★★ SONG OF MY HEART

Symphony Films production, directed by Benjamin Glazer, with the following cast:

Peter Tschaikowsky ..... Frank Sundstrom
Amalya ..... Audrey Long
Grand Duke ..... Sir Cedric Hardwicke
Sergei-Stephan ..... Mikail Rasumny
Sophia ..... Gale Sherwood

For devotees of Tschaikowsky's music, who should be enough to fill the International Cinema for weeks to come, Song of My Heart will be just about perfect.

The film is produced by an outfit which calls itself Symphony Productions, and the visual portion of the film, a minor little romantic hodgepodge about Tschaikowsky's romances, takes second place to the sound track.

The music includes the 4th, 5th and 6th Symphonies, the 1st Piano Concerta, the 1812 Overture, Andante Cantabile Marche Slav, Romeo and Juliet Fantasy, and Swan Lake and Nutcracker ballets.

A corps de ballet of 120 dancers was recruited from Ballet Russe, the Metropolitan Opera ballet, Ballet Theatre, Chicago Civic Opera ballet, and from principal European companies.

Sir Cedric Hardwicke is the only well known movie personality in the cast, doing his usual suave job as the grand duke. Frank Sundstrom, who plays Tschaikowsky, is a well known Swedish film star making his American debut. Music lovers should flock to hear Song of My Heart.

ON EXTENDED RUN AT INTERNATIONAL CINEMA
BREAKING HOUSE RECORD IN FIRST TWO WEEKS!

From MONOGRAM NOW!